

Abstract

An 802.11 source station transmits a message, such as a CF-End message, to reset a network allocation vector at a time other than that required for indicating the end of the contention free period. That is, the source station uses the CF-End message to spoof stations within range of the message into resetting the stations' network allocation vectors as if the contention free period were active. Thus, the spoofing source station is allowed to release the medium for general use after the medium has been reserved for a specific use, for a greater time than necessary. Accordingly, spoofed stations may, for example, 1) delay transmission until a more critical transmission has completed, 2) allow unknown or foreign protocol to have preferential use of the medium, 3) prevent interference from hidden stations, and 4) allow sharing of the medium by overlapping basic service sets. After the specific use, if the medium is still reserved, the medium may be released for general use.